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August 14, 2017

*Critical information about the environment delivered weekly*



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**Drilling Opponents Dominate Public Hearing**



Gov. Roy Cooper's message last month to Washington echoed throughout a state-hosted public hearing Monday night on the proposed federal offshore leasing program. The North Carolina governor's stern statement "not off our coast" or a variation thereof reverberated throughout the two-hour public hearing attended by about 175 people.

An overwhelming majority spoke in opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, expressing concerns about how such activity would result in oil spills, destroy the coastal economy and irreparably harm the environment.

[Read more at Coastal Review](#)

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**Trump's border wall would slice through wildlife refuges and cut off U.S. territory in Texas**



On dusty land in Mission, Tex., near the Mexican border, Marianna Trevino Wright recently took a walk with a contractor. She was showing off her effort to turn the earth surrounding the National Butterfly Center into “an oasis for butterflies,” she said — with 10,000 native milkweed plants that a dwindling number of monarch butterflies use as habitat in their arduous and yearly migration from Mexico and across the United States to Canada.



But the yellow that caught her eye that day wasn't the fluttering wings of butterflies.

[Read more at The Washington Post](#)

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## **Massive Crowd Marches to Give ‘KXL the Boot’**



Pipeline Fighters from Nebraska and across the region marched through the streets of Lincoln, Nebraska Sunday—on the eve of a weeklong public hearing on the proposed [Keystone XL](#) pipeline before the Nebraska Public Service Commission, where Nebraska farmers and ranchers,

the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Bold Alliance and other environmental and citizen advocates will present evidence on why TransCanada's [tar sands](#) export pipeline is unnecessary and not in the public interest.

[Read more at EcoWatch](#)

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## **Climate Change Is The Leading Cause Of Moose And Loon Population Decline In New Hampshire**

Climate change, which causes rising temperatures, increasingly severe weather events, and shrinking habitats, negatively impacts the moose and loon populations of New Hampshire more than any other factors — including human interference from road construction or hunting and fishing practices.



That's according to longtime wildlife observers, who joined The Exchange to deliver an update on these two beloved new Hampshire species.

[Read more at New Hampshire Public Radio](#)

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## Electric Vehicles Enter the Here and Now



The high level of confidence that automotive industry leaders have in the future of electric vehicles (EVs) has been on full display recently. In just the past few weeks:

Tesla's Model 3 started to roll off the assembly line, Daimler announced a \$740 million investment to produce EV batteries in China, Cummins noted it would have a fully electric truck platform available by the end of 2019, Lyft pledged to provide a billion rides a year powered by electricity by 2025, Porsche set a 2023 target for having 50 percent of its production be electric vehicles, Volvo Cars announced that "all the models it introduces starting in 2019 will be either hybrids or powered solely by batteries."

[Read more at EcoWatch](#)

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## Bee Pesticide Ban Debate Could Arise in Next Farm Bill

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) wants to include a ban on pesticides linked to declining bee health in next year's farm bill, one of several initiatives he is pushing in the legislation to reauthorize agriculture and nutrition programs.



Thirty-one Democrats are backing a bill—the Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2017 ([H.R. 3040](#))—that would suspend the approval of neonicotinoid pesticides, common insect-killers that are said to harm honeybees, aquatic insects, birds, and other insects and animals.

[Read more at Bloomberg BNA](#)

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## New Jersey tackles food waste and hunger — for the climate



A [new law](#) in New Jersey aims to shrink the state's climate footprint



and feed the hungry by drastically reducing the amount of wasted food that ends up in landfills.

The law requires the state to develop a plan over the next year to cut its food waste by half by 2030. The bipartisan measure, which passed the state legislature without a single dissenting vote and was signed last week by Governor Chris Christie, mirrors an EPA [goal for the entire country](#) set under the Obama administration in 2015.

[Read more at Grist](#)

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## **I'm a scientist. I'm blowing the whistle on the Trump administration**

Joel Clement was director of the Office of Policy Analysis at the U.S. Interior Department until last week. He is now a senior adviser at the department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue.



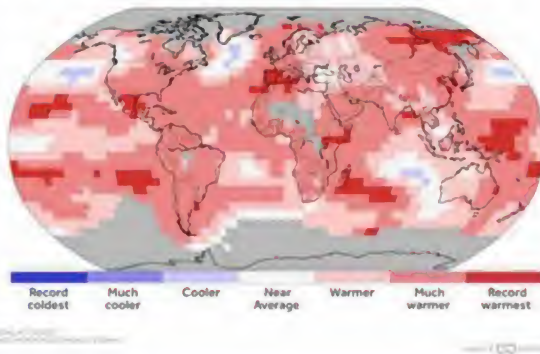
I am not a member of the deep state. I am not big government.  
I am a scientist, a policy expert, a civil servant and a worried citizen.  
Reluctantly, as of today, I am also a whistleblower on an administration that chooses silence over science.

[Read more at The Washington Post](#)

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## At Midway Point, 2017 Is 2nd-Hottest Year on Record

**Another Month Above Average**  
Jan-Jun Land and Ocean Temperature Percentiles



At the halfway point of the year, 2017 remains the second-hottest year to date — a surprise given the demise of the El Niño that helped boost temperatures to record levels last year.

The continued near-record warmth is a marker of just how much global

temperatures have risen thanks to the [greenhouse gases accumulating](#) in the atmosphere from fossil fuel use.

[Read more at Climate Central](#)

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**Natural gas building boom fuels climate worries,  
enrages landowners**



Companies have asked a federal regulator to approve thousands of miles of pipeline from Appalachia. They almost always get their way. They landed, one after another, in 2015: plans for nearly a dozen



interstate pipelines to move natural gas beneath rivers, mountains and people's yards. Like spokes on a wheel, they'd spread from Appalachia to markets in every direction.

[Read more at The Center for Public Integrity](#)

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The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Over the years we at RCC have been devoted to providing you the public with important, timely information about the environment. RCC exists because of donations from individuals like you.

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